

LOAVES & FISH

News from St. Andrew's by-the-Lake Episcopal Church

April 2017

Half empty or half full?

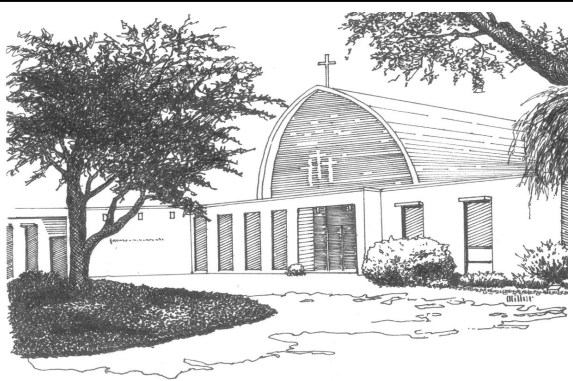
Five members of our congregation traveled to South Bend on Thursday, April 16 for a one day seminar entitled, "The Art of the Flourishing Congregation." The seminar included plenary speakers, break out sessions addressing specific areas of concern such as enacting change in a congregation and also provided time for our team to begin to process together what we were learning. The seminar proved to be a very worthwhile experience for all who attended.

The "take away" for me was the importance of focusing and celebrating what we have, not what we don't have. It is not unusual for churches that have experienced decline to lament 'the good old days' when the pews were full and nobody worried about the church's budget balancing. While there is some value in looking to the past (in order to learn from it), simply lamenting what used to be will not help us face the challenges of the present. Instead of pining for what we don't have, we can CHOOSE to celebrate what we have been given, even if it isn't much by worldly standards. Remember that we serve a Lord who fed a gigantic crowd of people with a few loaves of bread and a few fish! Jesus can do a lot with a little when it is given to Him in faith.

We need to be careful with our language. Are we primarily negative when talking about our church? If so, we have to recognize the corrosive nature of negativity. If we have little or nothing positive to say about our church, why would anyone else want to join us? It takes some effort and a reorientation of our outlook, but let's intentionally celebrate what God IS doing among us and look forward in hope for what he WILL do in the future, if we are faithful!

May God bless each of you and see you on Sunday morning!

In Jesus,
Rob +



Street address:
1007 Moore Road
Michigan City, IN

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 8766
Michigan City, IN 46361

Phone:
219-872-6984

Email:
standrewbythelake@sbcglobal.net

Website:
www.standrews-bythelake.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 AM

Holy Communion: Rite II

10:45 AM

Coffee Hour

11:00 AM

Adult Inspirations

We invite you to worship, grow & serve with us!



April Lectionary Readings

April 2 - 5th Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

April 9 - Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:54

April 16 - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

April 23 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:1-18

April 30 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Lenten Sung Evening Prayer & Soup Supper

Our final sung service of Holden Evening Prayer will be on Wednesday, April 5. We will gather at 6 pm in the parish hall for a simple meal of soup and bread. The service will begin at approximately 6:30 pm. If you haven't been able to come this Lent, please make a special effort to join us for delicious soup, warm fellowship and a beautiful liturgy!

Vestry Corner

Our next vestry meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22 at 8:30 am. Please remember all church members are welcome to attend vestry meetings. Our current vestry includes:

Senior Warden/Treasurer - David Jocelyn
Junior Warden - Bill Hazelgrove
Secretary - Sue Vail
Lisa Emshwiller



Worship at Rittenhouse

Each month, St. Andrew's offers a 'Protestant Worship Service' at Rittenhouse Senior Living Center in Michigan City. We gather at 9:30 am, usually, on the first and third Wednesday of the month. We will host worship at Rittenhouse on April 5 and April 19.

All members of St. Andrew's are welcome to join us for worship at Rittenhouse. Equally as important as connecting with God, these services afford us an opportunity to connect with the residents at Rittenhouse! Come worship and be a friend to our senior brothers and sisters in Christ!

Office Hours for Father Rob

My normal office hours are:
Wednesdays from 10 am—4 pm,
and by appointment.

PLEASE feel free to contact me for any reason on my cell phone: 219-299-6772.

Lay Ministries Schedule

April 2 - 5th Lent - Altar Color: Purple

Greeter	Gail Kinney
Reader	Cheryl Ostermeier
Altar Guild	David Jocelyn
Sunday School	Joe Walker
Tellers	Klare/Marz

April 9 - Palm Sunday - Altar Color: Red

Greeter	Bill & Carol Hazelgrove
Reader	Sue Vail
Altar Guild	Carol Hazelgrove
Sunday School	Sue Marz
Tellers	Klare/Marz

April 16 - Easter - Altar Color: White

Greeter	Lisa Emshwiller
Reader	Tay Klare
Altar Guild	Cheryl Ostermeier
Sunday School	Sally Hazelgrove
Tellers	Klare/Marz

April 23 - 2nd Easter - Altar Color: White

Greeter	David Jocelyn
Reader	John Carington
Altar Guild	Tay Klare
Sunday School	Lisa Emshwiller
Tellers	Klare/Marz

April 30 - 3rd Easter - Altar Color: White

Greeter	Bruce & Erin Williams
Reader	Cheryl Ostermeier
Altar Guild	David Jocelyn
Sunday School	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Tellers	Klare/Marz

Father Rob away April 30

I will be away for the 25th anniversary of the Clinical Pastoral Education program where I did a residency as a chaplain from 2003-2004. Pastor Jim Swanson has very kindly agreed to celebrate and preach on that Sunday, April 30. Please warmly welcome Pastor Swanson upon his second visit to St. Andrew's!



Adult Inspirations Corner:

Our Adult Inspirations class concluded our DVD study of the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer at the end of March. Thanks to everyone who joined us! The Adult Inspirations class will take a break during the month of April, with the expectation of meeting during the month of May.



Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday

April 13 — 6 pm

Holy Eucharist with hand washing

Good Friday

April 14 — 6 pm

Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday

April 16 — 9:30 am

Please remember to bring your bells!

Happy April Birthday!

April 23 Dale Guckenberger



Like us on Facebook!

Did you know that St. Andrew's has a Facebook page? (Thank you very much, Sue Marz!) Please "like" our page next time you check your page and invite your friends to like us too!



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P.O. Box 8766
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Return Service Requested

April 2017